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AUSTRALASIA AND OCEANIA

Die Sunda-Expedition des Vereins für Geographie und Statistik zu Frankfurt am Main. Von Dr. Johannes Elbert. Festschrift zur Feier des 75 jährigen Bestehens des Vereins. Band I. xxv and 274 pp. Maps, ills. Hermann Minjon, Frankfurt am Main, 1911. Mks. 40. 12 x 9.

This Indonesian volume is a worthy offering in celebration of the third quarter century of the fourth in age of the world's great geographical societies, the next to the oldest in Germany. In this first volume Dr. Elbert deals with Lombok, Muna, Buton and the southeastern peninsula of Celebes. The last of these fields of survey comes with particular interest as supplementing the brilliant record which for the rest of Celebes we owe to the cousins Sarasin. Those able explorers were obliged to leave the field before they had ventured upon this peninsula; therefore we are grateful that the omission has been so promptly and so carefully supplied. The prime object in Dr. Elbert's work was vulcanography and geoplastics as dependent thereupon. But his observation was by no means restricted. We note the intelligent curiosity with which he has studied the cloud masses capping the higher mountains and feel sure that meteorologists will find much satisfaction in his explanation of the atmospheric physics of earth-generated air currents directed upward by mountain slopes. In ethnography he is similarly alert in the study of all the material which it was within his power to examine. In linguistics he has provided a small supply of material from Muna and promises later a vocabulary of 700 words. In the small material which he offers here we find the suggestion of a most important matter. We now regard the intermingling of the Malayan (more properly Indonesian) languages and the Polynesian, amounting at the outside to less than 150 vocables, as due to a persistence of early Polynesian ancestors in retired spots when the oncoming of the Indonesian parents was expelling the former inhabitants. In this Muna material we note that forms identifiable as Polynesian are far closer to the Proto-Samoan than the cognate forms in Malay or Buton. Muna is a small outlier of the southeastern Celebes peninsula; the corresponding outlier of the southwestern peninsula is Salayer, also exhibiting close similarities with the Proto-Samoan speech. In the next work of my series upon Polynesia I shall point out the fact that the honorific title of our American island of Tutuila in Samoa is "Le motu o Salaia," the island of Salaia, a term incomprehensible in Samoan, unrecognizable elsewhere save at this distant tip of Celebes.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

Wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse einer amtlichen Forschungsreise nach dem Bismarck-Archipel im Jahre 1908. II: Beiträge zur Völker- und Sprachenkunde von Deutsch-Neuguinea. Von Dr. Georg Friederici. vi and 324 pp. Map, ills. *Mitt. aus den Deutschen Schutzgebieten*, Ergänzungsheft Nr. 5. Ernst S. Mittler & Sohn, Berlin, 1912.

This is one of the books rare in the experience of those whose lives are passed in the society of printed pages, one that a writer would feel proud to have written. It is not that the training of the German ethnologist is superior to the random methods and rarely inspired blundering of English and American practitioners of that science of the byways of the wild; it is not that Captain Friederici is an accurate observer, for there have been many accurate German explorers; it is his sympathy with the simple, his breadth of knowledge of the world and the men thereof, which give this volume a charm which enriches its great value.

The region studied is the western tip of Neupommern, over against New Guinea, especially the Barriai people. This is breaking new ground. Ages ago stands the brief discovery record of Dampier; there has been no second. Neither trader nor missionary has sought out this folk; when Friederici visited them they had undergone almost no contamination by the trickle of strange custom and foreign goods at second or third or later hand, each hand grasping and clutching and passing little onward. We feel a sense of security in following out this record. For one thing it is so complete; no least detail is omitted; there